

**News Conference 1/12/05**  
**Latino Access to the Indiana Driver's License**  
**[Statement from Rep. John Aguilera (D-East Chicago)]**

As we begin the new session, many of you are aware that Tuesday was the last day to file legislation to be considered by the 2005 General Assembly.

We as members of the Indiana Commission on Hispanic / Latino Affairs along with members of the Subcommittee on Driver's License Issues have called this press conference to discuss an important piece of legislation that was not filed in this session but that we in the Hispanic community feel is a high-priority issue that needs to be discussed and dealt with in a timely manner. The issue we speak of is Latino Access to the Indiana Driver's License.

After several months of meetings and careful consideration, the Subcommittee on Driver's License Issues has recommended, and I agree, that the best approach to addressing this issue is through an administrative process.

As a commission, we have touched base with Governor Daniels' transition team on this issue. In addition I sent a letter to the governor advising him of our intentions and requesting his cooperation in moving this effort forward administratively once he has had a chance to get his arms around the issue.

A report from the commission that I have in hand will help to educate the new administration and the General Assembly. In addition we are planning a forum in late March or April to educate legislators and the governor's staff on the importance of this issue to the Hispanic community. We will use this time to define the issue, answer questions and educate the decision makers about many of the common misconceptions that surround the driver's license issue.

We would like to commend the new administration for taking time to understand the importance of this issue to the Latino community. We look forward to working with them in a good faith effort to address this issue in a spirit of cooperation.

There are a number of representatives from the commission along with sub-cte members who are with us here to today. I would like to thank them for their hard work and ask if there are additional comments from any members of the committee.